



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 2923.0.30.001 - Census of Population and Housing: Census Geographic Areas Digital Boundaries, Australia, 2006

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## Summary

### Main Features

#### PRODUCT BRIEF

This product contains the Census Geographic Areas based upon the Collection Districts (CDs) of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) edition 2006, as digital boundaries. The CD boundaries can be accessed from [1259.0.30.002 Statistical Geography - Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\), Digital Boundaries, 2006](#).

The Census Geographic Areas include Suburbs, Postal Areas, Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions, and the Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification. All Census Geographic Area boundaries have been created by an aggregation of CD boundaries.

2006 Census digital boundaries are available only at one level of detail and align accurately with the digital base map data used by the ABS for design of Census Collection Districts (CDs). These boundaries are intended for display in GIS and desktop mapping packages, but because of the high level of detail, they are not suitable for use in 'low-end' mapping packages such as those included in Excel and Lotus 123.

It is important for users to be aware that new boundaries released by the ABS after August 2001 are based on the geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94). GDA94 provides an internationally compatible coordinate system for all geographic data and allows Australia to gain significant benefit from Global Positioning Systems technology. The transformation of boundary data to GDA94 involves a significant shift, of about 200 metres to the north east, compared to coordinates based on the older Australian Geodetic Datum (AGD).

Older GIS/desktop mapping software packages may not recognise this new datum and therefore boundaries based on the new datum will not necessarily align with boundaries based on earlier datums. However the GIS/desktop mapping software may have the capacity to adjust data to another datum when two datasets are viewed together.

#### Format

Boundaries are supplied in MapInfo Interchange (.mid/.mif) format and ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format. MapInfo Interchange format cannot be used for mapping directly, but is suitable for import into other GIS or desktop mapping packages. However, it is possible that limitations of individual software packages may make it impossible to import all boundary sets.

The following digital boundaries are included in this product:

## **1. State Suburb boundaries**

CD-derived State Suburb boundaries are available for all States/Territories except for Other Territories. These boundaries have been based upon localities gazetted by the Geographic Place name authority current at the time of the Census.

Each State Suburb boundary is identified by State Suburb Code (SSC) of 5 digits and a name. The first digit identifies the State or Territory. The second digit identifies the region within the state, such as Wollongong within NSW. The final three digits identify the individual suburb.

SSC codes used for 2006 do not match those used for the 2001 Census. It should also be noted that the coverage of SSCs has increased significantly since the 2001 Census.

## **2. Postal Area (POA) boundaries**

POAs have been constructed by aggregating CDs which have been allocated the same Australia Post postcode. Allocation was carried out using the best information available for postcodes current at the time of the 2006 Census.

Allocation of postcodes was made on the basis of population, not area and some postcodes may not be represented because the CDs which they covered had already been allocated to other postcodes. Other Australia Post postcodes which are not represented in these boundaries include Post Office boxes, Mail Centres and other special purpose postcodes such as competition postcodes.

It should be noted that the following POAs cross State/Territories borders.

NSW POA 2406 crosses into Qld

NSW POAs 2618 and 2620 cross into ACT

NSW POA 2540 crosses into OT (Jervis Bay Territory)

Vic. POAs 3585 and 3644 cross into NSW

Qld POA 4385 crosses into NSW

Qld POA 4825 crosses into NT

WA POA 6743 crosses into NT

NT 0872 crosses into SA and WA

ACT POA 2611 crosses into NSW

## **3. Commonwealth Electoral Division (CED) boundaries**

CD-derived CED boundaries are available for all States/Territories except Other Territories. (Note that Jervis Bay is included with the Australian Capital Territory, and Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included with Northern Territory). Because of the expected timing of a federal election soon after the scheduled release of 2006 Census data, two CED classifications have been defined for the 2006 Census. The AEC's electoral division boundaries come into effect after a federal election and are current until the next election. On Census Night 8 August 2006 the electoral division boundaries in effect were those dating from the previous federal election held 9 October 2004. The CD derived CED boundaries for that election are called CED 2004. The next federal election must be held between 4 August 2007 and 19 January 2008 and new electoral boundaries will take effect from then. The CD derived CEDs for that election are called CED 2007.

Each CED has been allocated a three digit code. The first digit is the state code, the remaining two digits are used to number the divisions within each State in alphabetical order.

#### 4. State Electoral Division (SED) boundaries

CD-derived SED boundaries are available for all States and Territories except for Other Territories. They are based upon the State Electoral Divisions which were in force on Census Night 8 August 2006.

Each SED has been allocated a five digit code. The first digit is the state code. For NSW, Queensland, South Australia, WA, ACT and NT the remaining four digits have been used to number the divisions within the state in alphabetical order. In Victoria and Tasmania, digits 2-3 identify the Lower House electorate and digits 4-5 identify the Upper House electorate.

#### 5. Indigenous Regions (IREG) boundaries

CD-derived IREG boundaries cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are based on Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICC) and the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) areas. They are attributed with a two digit code and a name that is the same as those determined for the official area by the relevant legislation. IREGs have replaced ATSIC Regions used to disseminate Indigenous data from the 1996 to 2001 Censuses. It should be noted that Indigenous Region, 01 Queanbeyan, crosses State/Territories borders as it includes Jervis Bay.

#### 6. Indigenous Area (IARE) boundaries

IARE boundaries are created from one or more Indigenous Location (ILOC) boundaries. Each IARE is identified by name and by five digit code (two digit IREG code plus a three digit IARE identifier).

#### 7. Indigenous Location (ILOC) boundaries

ILOC boundaries are created by aggregating CD boundaries. Each ILOC is identified by name and by seven digit code (five digit IARE code plus a two digit ILOC identifier).

## Geography Metadata Proforma

### GEOGRAPHY METADATA PROFORMA

CATEGORY	ELEMENT	ELEMENT DESCRIPTION
Dataset	Title	Census Geographic Areas (Edition 2006) Digital Boundaries,Australia ABS cat. no. 2923.0.30.001
Custodian	Custodian	ABS Geography Section: geography@abs.gov.au
Description	Abstract	This product contains ABS digital boundaries for Census Geographic Areas, used for the dissemination of data from the 2006 Census of Population & Housing. Date of effect of

this edition is 01 July 2006.

Digital boundaries are for Commonwealth Electoral Divisions for 2004 and 2007 (CED), State Electoral Division (SED), State Suburb (SSC), Postal Areas (POA), ATSI REGION (AREG), Indigenous Area (IARE) and Indigenous Location (ILOC).

Boundaries for Census Collection Districts (CD) for the 2006 Census, from which all higher level boundaries have been aggregated, have been included in 1259.0.30.002 Statistical Geography - Australia Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) ED. 2006.

<b>Data Currency</b>	Geographic Extent Name	Geographic Australia; including the external territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands & Christmas Island but excluding all other external territories.
	Beginning date	17 July 2006
<b>Data Status</b>	Ending date	Current
	Progress	Completed dataset
<b>Access</b>	Maintenance & Update Frequency	No further updates are planned.
	Stored data format	Digital as separate files for each level of the Census Geographic Areas 2006 structures represented.
	Available format type	MapInfo Interchange Format (.mid & .mif) and ESRI Shapefile (.shp) format.
<b>Data Quality</b>	Access constraints	Copyright Commonwealth of Australia administered by the ABS.
	Lineage	CD boundaries are aligned to the PSMA digital topographic database used for ASGC 2006 boundary set (mid 2004 through early 2005). Higher level spatial units are aggregated from the CD level.
	Positional Accuracy	The PSMA topographic database to which boundaries are aligned was captured at scales which vary from 1:4,000 in urban areas to 1:250,000 in remote areas
	Attribute Accuracy	Geographical area codes & labels are 100 % validated to the 2006 edition codes & labels of the structures represented. (Reference is ABS cat no. 2905.0).
	Logical Consistency	Spatial units are closed polygons. Polygons are attributed with codes & labels. Slivers/bow-ties may be present within or between spatial units.

These data include attribute records without spatial objects for administrative purposes.

It should be noted that some POAs, SEDs and IREGs cross state and territory borders.

	Completeness	There are no SED or SSC boundaries for OT.
<b>Co-ordinate Systems</b>	Datum	Datum GDA94
	Projection	Projection Lat/Long
<b>Metadata Date</b>	Metadata Date	July 2007
<b>Additional Metadata</b>	Additional Metadata	Reference: Statistical Geography Vol 1: Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2006 (ABS Cat. No. 1216.0) and Statistical Geography Vol 2: Census Geographic Areas Australia 2006 (ABS Cat. No. 2905.0).

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## About this Release

This product contains the Census Geographic Areas based upon the Collection Districts (CDs) of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Edition 2006, as digital boundaries. The Census Geographic Areas include Suburbs, Postal Areas, Commonwealth and State Electoral Divisions, and the Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification areas.

The digital boundaries are supplied in MapInfo Interchange Format and ESRI Shapefile Format. They are based upon the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 1994.

These boundaries, including Census Collection Districts (CDs), are also available on CD-ROM.

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